

August 28, 2015

The Federal Communications Commission
Filed electronically at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>

Re: WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90: FCC15-71
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization
Telecommunication Carriers Eligible for Universal Service
Support, Connect America Fund

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed rule "Lifeline and Link up Reform and Modernization , Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund" Published in the July 17, 2015 Federal Register (80 FR 42670). This proposed rule is of great importance to the people of Hawaii.

Medicaid is a significant program by which low income Americans qualify for and obtain Lifeline service. As the Senior Field Representative for a Congressional Office in Hawaii, I am acutely aware of how currently, while there are only approximately 25,000 Lifeline subscribers in Hawaii, there are over 210,000 adult Medicaid recipients. Hawaii's Medicaid plans are of critical importance in linking the Lifeline program to low income citizens. In a state where the average cost of food is 60.1 % higher than the rest of the nation, the Lifeline program can provide essential savings to those who need it the most.

As a social determinant of health, communication resources are vital to connect the impoverished citizen with crucial medical care. Over the past year I have been working closely with Hawaii's Medicaid plans in efforts to improve the access to care for the most vulnerable citizens of Hawaii. The Lifeline program services will provide a critical tool for Hawaii's health plans to coordinate care, and improve the quality of life for citizens in the most rural communities of our noncontiguous state.

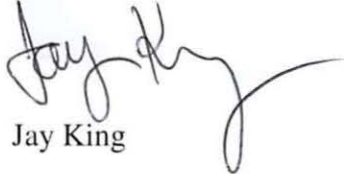
Nationwide the United States Department of Agriculture facilitates the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP) with an 83% distribution rate. Unfortunately at this time Hawaii has only a 66% utilization rate for eligible recipients. For this reason it is even more critical for Medicaid to remain a program providing qualifying criteria.

While it is true that there are other government benefit programs to serve as a basis for eligibility criteria, the Medicaid program is the most efficient vehicle to connect Lifeline services in the new era of the Affordable Care Act.

For the reasons discussed above, I strongly urge the Commission to continue having policies in place that maximize communication access by keeping the Medicaid pathway to eligibility.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. If additional information would be helpful or if you have questions about the issues raised, please feel free to contact me 808-457-7392 or stoneliving4005@outlook.com

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay King", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jay King